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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Health Alert

To: All Hospitals, Clinics, Medical Practices, Physicians, Skilled Nursing Facilities and Ambulance Services in Yolo County

From: Connie Caldwell MD, Interim Health Officer, Yolo County

Subject: Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of All Healthcare Workers in Yolo County

Influenza season will begin again soon. As you know, influenza causes the serious illness and death of thousands of patients every year. Health care workers can become ill with influenza and can transmit the virus to their patients. Influenza vaccination of all health care workers is essential to protect our community and our patients against influenza.

Many counties and jurisdictions have mandated or strongly encouraged influenza vaccination of all health care workers.

Yolo County Health Department strongly recommends that:

- **All health care facilities in Yolo County implement policies that mandate annual influenza vaccination for all health care workers.**
- **All health care facilities in Yolo County implement policies requiring mandatory masking of unimmunized health care workers working in areas with patient contact for the duration of the influenza season.**

Influenza season is defined as November 1 through March 31 unless circumstances warrant starting the season earlier or extending it later. You will be notified if this is necessary.

Health care facilities include hospitals, clinics, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities and ambulance services.

Health care worker means all workers, paid or volunteer, who may have direct patient contact or work in patient care areas. This includes but is not limited to: clerical staff, dietary workers, janitorial staff, medical assistants, nurses, physician assistants, physicians and other allied health workers.